

SUPPLEMENTS TO PROMOTE REENTRY INTO BIOMEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH CAREERS

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PURPOSE

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces a program for administrative supplements to research grants to support individuals with high potential to reenter an active research career after taking time off to care for children or parents or to attend to other family responsibilities. The aim of these supplements is to encourage fully trained individuals to reenter research careers within the missions of the program areas of the NIH. This program will provide administrative supplements to existing NIH research grants for the purpose of supporting full-time or part-time research by these individuals in a program geared to bring their existing research skills and knowledge up to date.

The NIH recognizes the need to increase the number of women and minorities and people with disabilities in basic, behavioral, and clinical science research careers. Among the reasons for the low representation of women may be the fact that women bear a majority of the responsibilities surrounding child and family care. To address this issue, this program is designed to offer opportunities to women and men who have interrupted their research careers to care for children or parents or to attend to other family responsibilities. The objective of the program is for those who receive support to reestablish careers in biomedical or behavioral research.

In 1992 and 1993, the Office of Research on Women's Health sponsored a research supplement program to promote reentry with a single application date each year. The present program announcement replaces that program with one with an open receipt date and with review and funding directly by participating Institutes and Centers (ICs). Participating ICs are the National

Cancer Institute, National Eye Institute, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Institute on Aging, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institute of Dental Research, National Institute of Drug Abuse, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Center for Human Genome Research, and National Center for Research Resources. The National Institute of Mental Health (PA-94-043) recently announced a similar reentry supplement program. The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke previously announced a Research Career Development Award (K17) for scientists reentering the neurological sciences (NIH Guide, Vol. 21, No. 33, 1992).

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of "Healthy People 2000," a PHS-led national activity for setting priority areas. This program announcement, Supplements to Promote Reentry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research Careers, is related to the priority area of women's health. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of "Healthy People 2000" (Full Report: Stock No. 017-001-00474-1) through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325 (telephone 202-783-3238).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Grants and Cooperative Agreements: Only the following active NIH award mechanisms at domestic institutions are eligible for Supplements to Promote Reentry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research Careers: R01, R10, R18, R24, R35, R37, P01, P40, P41, P50, P51, P60, U01, U10, and G12. Principal Investigators on such awards are invited to submit a request for an administrative supplement to the awarding component of the parent grant to support an eligible candidate interested in reestablishing a research career. The parent grant must have at least two years of support remaining at the time of the proposed beginning date of the supplemental funding. The rationale for this policy is to ensure ample opportunity for the candidate to develop further her or his research skills. A maximum of three years supplemental support can be awarded under this program. Usually, a parent grant would support only one administrative supplement (Research Supplements for Underrepresented Minorities, Research Supplements to Promote the Recruitment of Individuals with Disabilities into Biomedical Research Careers, or Research Supplements to Promote Reentry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research Careers).

Grants most likely to support more than a single administrative supplement are multicomponent awards.

Candidates

Candidates must have a doctoral degree, such as M.D., D.D.S., Ph.D., O.D., D.V.M., or equivalent, and at least two years of post-doctoral research experience and must have had sufficient prior research experience to qualify for a faculty appointment at the assistant professor or equivalent level. Candidates who have begun the reentry process through a fellowship or similar mechanism are not eligible for this program.

The following general guidelines will be applied by the individual ICs. In general, the duration of the career interruption should be for at least two years and no more than eight years. Examples of qualifying interruptions would include starting and/or raising a family, an incapacitating illness or injury of the candidate, the spouse, partner, or a member of the immediate family; relocation to accommodate a spouse, partner, or other close family member; pursuit of non-research endeavors that would permit earlier retirement of debt incurred in obtaining a doctoral degree; and military service. The program is not intended to support graduate or postdoctoral training and is not intended to support career changes from non- research to research careers for individuals without prior research training. Generally, at the time of application, a candidate may not be engaged in paid research activities for more than 25 percent effort.

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

In all cases, the proposed research must be directly related to the funded approved ongoing research of the parent grant or cooperative agreement. The individual supported under this supplemental award, hereafter called the reentry candidate, must be afforded the opportunity to act as a full participant in the research project and must be given an opportunity to update and enhance her or his research capabilities. This will allow the candidate to begin the process of establishing or re-establishing a career as an independent, competitive research investigator. Supplemental awards will be consistent with the goals of strengthening the existing research program and with the overall programmatic balance and priorities of the funding program of the NIH. Awards will be made according to the policies and provisions stated in this announcement and in the PHS Grants Policy Statement (rev. 10/90).

Administrative supplements (S1) provided under this program may be for either part-time or full-time support for the candidate, and all supported time is to be spent updating and enhancing

research skills. Proposed part-time appointments may not be less than 50 percent effort per week.

Supplemental awards may be made for up to three years and may not exceed \$50,000 in direct costs per year. A maximum of \$40,000 may be requested for the combination of full time salary and fringe benefits for the reentry candidate. The amount of salary requested must be consistent with the policies of the grantee institution for individuals occupying similar positions and must be related to the percent effort requested for the supplement and the number of months requested for the supplement. An additional amount up to \$10,000 may be requested for supplies, domestic travel, and publication costs relevant to the proposed research. Equipment may not be purchased as a part of this supplement without justification and specific prior approval of the NIH.

The decision to fund a supplement will take six to eight weeks from the time the necessary information is received by the awarding ICD. During the first budget period, funds will be provided as an administrative supplement to the parent grant. In subsequent years, continued funding for the supplement is contingent on funding of the parent grant and can not extend beyond the current competitive segment of the parent grant. A decision may be made to pay, but, in fact, at the end or beginning of a year, no funds may be available.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

A request for a supplement may be made at any time during the funding year, providing there will be two full years of funding remaining for the parent grant at the time of funding. In making requests, the grantee institution, on behalf of the Principal Investigators, should submit the request for supplemental funds directly to awarding component that supports the parent grant. The request is NOT to be submitted to the NIH Division of Research Grants. Principal Investigators are encouraged to obtain the address for submission from the NIH program administrator on the parent grant.

The request for a supplemental award must include the following:

1. A complete face page (with appropriate signatures) from grant application form PHS 398 (rev. 9/91), including the title and grant number of the parent grant and "Reentry Supplement" on line 1
2. A brief, three- or four-page description, prepared by the Principal Investigator of the parent grant, that includes:

- a. A summary or abstract of the funded grant or project
- b. A description of the research proposed for the candidate
- c. How the supplement will expand and foster the independent research capabilities of the candidate
- d. How the proposed research relates to the specific research goals and objectives of the parent grant
- e. A description of the scope and nature of the mentoring relationship between the Principal Investigator and the candidate

3. A brief description, prepared by the candidate, that includes:

- a. research objectives and career goals
- b. length of and reason for career hiatus
- c. description of how the candidate has kept current or attempted to keep current in her/his field
- d. identification of steps taken toward reentry, (if any, such as attending scientific meetings)

4. A biographical sketch of the candidate that includes:

- a. curriculum vitae
- b. social security number
- c. citizenship status
- d. publications
- e. other evidence of scientific achievement.

5. A proposed budget entered on budget pages from the grant application form PHS 398 (rev. 9/91), related to the percent effort for the research proposed for the reentry candidate during the first and future budget period(s) (The amount requested for the supplement must coincide with the current period of support. Thus, if the initial budget period requested is less than 12 months, the budget must be prorated accordingly.)

6. Documentation, if applicable, that the proposed research is approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or human subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the grantee institution

7. Under unusual circumstances in which the applicant and mentor would be at a site other than the grantee institution, an appropriately signed letter from the institution where the research is to be conducted must also be submitted.

The request must be signed by the Principal Investigator, the reentry candidate, and the appropriate institution business official.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

The program staff of the individual ICDs will review requests for supplements using the following general criteria:

- o the qualifications of the reentry candidate, including career goals, prior research training, research potential, and any relevant experience
- o the plan for the proposed research experience in the supplemental request and its relationship to the parent grant
- o evidence from the Principal Investigator that the experience will enhance the research potential, knowledge, and/or skills of the reentry candidate
- o evidence from the Principal Investigator that the activities of the reentry candidate are an integral part of the project
- o evidence of effort by the reentry candidate to initiate the reentry process, such as attending scientific meetings, keeping current with journals
- o evidence that proposed research will achieve the stated objectives of the reentry supplements

In noncompeting continuation applications, the progress report for the reentry supplement should be clearly delineated from the progress report for the parent grant. The progress report should include information about the research activities supported by the supplement, even if support for future years is not requested. Since these applications will undergo administrative review, summary statements will not be produced. This is consistent with NIH practice for other similar programs, such as those referenced in the

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS section of this program announcement.

INQUIRIES

For general information about the reentry supplements, candidates and Principal Investigators should contact the program official of the appropriate awarding Institute or Center. Candidates who have not yet made contact with a Principal Investigator are encouraged to contact the program official whose institute or center is specific to the research interest. To discuss business aspects of the parent grant or the supplement, Principal Investigators should contact their grants management official. Program officials and grants management contacts and the respective awarding institutes or centers are listed below.

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AUTHORITY AND REGULATIONS

Supplemental awards will be made under authorities applicable to the parent grant and administered under PHS grants policies and Federal Regulations 42 CFR 52 and 45 CFR Parts 74 and 92. This program is not subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372 or Health Systems Agency review.

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